



Yuma County Economic
Development Corporation
P. O. Box 244
Yuma, CO 80759

March 6, 2014

Dear Federal Communications Commission:
Reference WC Docket No. 10-90

Re: Next Generation Network Experiments in rural America - Report and Order in WC Docket No. 10-90

On behalf of The Yuma County Economic Development Corporation - a non-profit organization supported by the Yuma County Commissioners and municipalities of Yuma and Wray, CO - and pursuant to the above referenced Docket No. 10-90, Yuma County, submit the following Expression of Interest.

The proposed service area defined as the Yuma Industrial Area located east of downtown Yuma, Colorado including portions of Census Block 38 and 47 has a good faith belief that the following customers lack adequate broadband speeds as defined in the Report and Order referenced above.

- Crop Production Services
- Schramm Feedlot
- JBS 5 Rivers Feedyard
- Yuma Ethanol
- Agri-Inject
- Yuma Dairy

As part of this experimental model, the carrier and the local government that we are working with in partnership intends to implement a combination of Direct Fiber or Fiber to a Tower with Fixed Wireless to meet the last-mile needs of the service area in conformity with the FCC's stated goals contained in its Order.

The services to be offered include but will not be limited to the following: Business-Grade internet service at a minimum of 4Mbps down and 1 Mbps up, Dedicated Internet service and Voice-over-IP phone service.

The governmental entities participating in this proposed deployment include the following: Yuma County Government and The City of Yuma, Colorado.

The project we have identified will require \$400,000 for a one-time charge and will be supported by Eaglenet/Affinity, Vistabeam, Premier Systems, Plainstel, PCTelcom and/or a carrier to be named later. We look forward to learning more about the program.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Darlene D. Carpio".

Darlene D. Carpio
Director
Yuma County Economic
Development Corporation



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Dean Wingfield
District 2

Robin Wiley
District 3

Trent Bushner
District 1

Michael K. Grinnan Esq.
Commissioners Attorney

Linda Briggs
Administrator

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

March 6, 2014

RE: Broadband Capabilities needed in Yuma County

Dear Ms. Marlene Dortch,

Yuma County is geographically located on the Eastern plains of Colorado, bordering Kansas and Nebraska. In land mass, the county is composed of approximately 2,400 square miles, 40 miles wide by 60 miles long. The county's economic base is supported mainly by agriculture, agricultural-based industry, and natural gas production. Citizens of Yuma County are very fortunate to have two medical hospitals that serve our residents, as we are several hours away from the large metropolitan trauma centers. Our children are being educated in four school districts throughout the county; as well as, outreach centers from two community colleges.

We find ourselves, as does much of rural America, at a technical disadvantage. Precision agriculture, a technology that will lead our area into the future in crop production, water and nutrient conservation, and more, is set to explode in areas that have broadband capability. This is not only true for farming, but also for: agriculture-based industry, hospitals, schools, and local governments that provide services to the public. Yuma County does not have county-wide broadband capabilities despite the ever-growing advance of technology.

As technology moves forward in telemedicine and education, civic leaders need to take steps to guarantee that our hospitals and schools have the broadband capabilities to provide quality patient care and educate students for the future, not only in schools, but in the homes of patients, and our students, too.


Local government leaders in Yuma County recognize that most of our county is unserved, or underserved, when it comes to broadband service. The lack of sufficient broadband is having a negative financial impact on Yuma County. Industrial growth and good jobs are leaving Yuma County because other areas provide broadband at a more reasonable cost.

Yuma County assembled a task force to develop a plan for improving broadband capabilities throughout the county. The task force of local government and community leaders; as well as, local Internet Service Providers meets monthly. A consultant has been hired to draft a plan and the process to improve broadband service. As Yuma County continues its planning process, we have reached out to our surrounding counties to see if there is interest in putting together a regional plan for broadband improvements.

We, the Yuma County Commissioners recognize it is imperative that a plan be developed to provide robust broadband access throughout the county. It is very important to: agriculture, industry, governments, hospitals, schools and citizens to improve the broadband capabilities at a reasonable cost. We feel the best solution would be a public-private partnership.

Yuma County Commissioners fully support the public-private partnership between local government and private providers to improve the broadband capabilities in Yuma County.

Sincerely,
Yuma County Commissioners


Dean Wingfield
Chairman


Trent Bushner


Robin Wiley



Yuma County Economic
Development Corporation
P. O. Box 244
Yuma, CO 80759

March 6, 2014

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Ms. Dortch:

When business owners in Yuma County, Colorado were asked what the biggest challenge of doing business in Yuma County was.....the overwhelming answer was, "The lack of adequate broadband." The concerns were widespread – from Main Street in our two most-populated communities, to the Industrial Parks, to the remote rancher – the lack of adequate broadband is limiting day to day business and curtailing plans for business expansion in our county. The local insurance agent can't give a quote when his internet is down and the John Deere dealership is concerned that their equipment with the latest technology will not have adequate broadband to function in Yuma County. With that in mind the Yuma County Economic Development Corporation (YCEDC) has taken steps to address the situation, but resources are limited. Your consideration of an experimental, rural broadband project in our county is greatly encouraged.

YCEDC organized a Broadband Task Force in the fall of 2013. The attendance at monthly meetings has grown to include an average of two dozen individuals providing representation from all sectors of the county. The concern for the lack of reliable, redundant, and affordable broadband service has been shared by business owners, educators, the medical community, city and county officials, and residents. Providers and potential providers have been welcomed in the conversation. State representatives have been invited to share information about available resources and programs to address our broadband challenges and to assist in organizing a regional broadband effort.

The Task Force is involved in identifying the aggregate need for expanded broadband services and continues to work on the challenge of mapping our existing infrastructure. Regular, free workshops are being implemented to assist in educating local consumers in the area of technology with the goal of meeting their needs and using existing services efficiently. A consultant has been hired to analyze our assets and needs. We continue to try to facilitate a long-term plan to meet our growing broadband demand. Public-private partnerships are being explored in our attempt to use all available resources. We have determined that we are "middle-mile rich" – our challenge is providing last-mile service to our consumers.

Thank you for this opportunity provided by the FCC and your consideration of support for this Yuma County, Colorado project. Please do not hesitate to contact me for further information (970-630-4531).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Darlene D. Carpio".

Darlene D. Carpio
Director
Yuma County Economic Development Corporation

CITY OF YUMA

P.O. Box 265
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Yuma, Colorado 80759-0265
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06 March 2014

Ms. Marlene Dortch
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

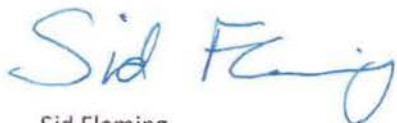
Dear Ms. Dortch

As the City Manager for the community of Yuma, Colorado, I have observed the challenges that our city faces as the demand for more reliable and abundant broadband increases. An awareness of the increased need has been voiced from all sectors of the community including residents, educators, and business owners.

The Yuma County Economic Development Corporation has organized a Broadband Task Force in the last few months, and I have participated in their discussions. I support their efforts in submitting a Letter of Interest to the FCC for possible funding of an experimental broadband project to help serve our business community. Although the provided mapping of our community indicates that we are well served with broadband access, the industrial areas are struggling to meet increased demand at a cost that is affordable for them to remain competitive. On behalf of the Yuma City Council, I support this effort to seek additional resources in financing this project.

Our municipality would welcome the opportunity to partner with Yuma County Economic Development Corporation on this project. If I can provide additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Sid Fleming
City of Yuma
City Manager
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s.fleming@yumacolo.org